MENTALLY VEXED ZINE #1

FEATURING YEAR OF THE KNIFE, CRUELTY, AND MORE

ISSUE #1
SPRING 2020
"THE LOCKDOWN EDITION"

NUCLEAR FAMILY RECORDS

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HI, I'M ALEC AND I LOVE HARDCORE. I AM BASED IN THE MIDLANDS AND PLAY IN A COUPLE OF BANDS (@MANTLETHC & @SUPPRESS.SCHC).

COVID19 IS CURRENTLY TAKING HOLD OF THE UK, WHICH MEANS MOST OF US ARE STUCK INSIDE. THE HARD PART IS THAT NO ONE KNOWS HOW LONG WE WILL BE IN THIS SITUATION. HARDCORE IS A LIVE EXPERIENCE, SO IF SHOWS AREN'T HAPPENING, WE NEED TO FIND OTHER SHIT TO DO TO STAY SANE. MENTALLY VEXED SEEMED A FITTING NAME.

WITH SO MUCH DOWN-TIME, WRITING A ZINE SEEMED LIKE A GOOD WAY TO KEEP PASS THE TIME, AND HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT BANDS AND ARTISTS. MY PLAN WAS TO INITIALLY GET THIS OUT ONLINE FOR FREE, AND HOPEFULLY PRINT WHEN WE GET BACK TO NORMALITY. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN A PRINTED COPY.

MASSIVE THANKS TO **JACK BEALE-BURCHILL** AND **GAZ DAVIES** FOR THEIR ADVICE AND CONTRIBUTIONS.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO AGREED TO ANSWER MY QUESTIONS

THANKS TO ALL THE PHOTOGRAPHERS WHO'S WORK HAS BEEN FEATURED THROUGHOUT THIS ZINE; **DEC BRECKON, LIAM GAUNTLETT, DAN GRAY, YASEEM AL, STEPHANIE EVANS, @CALLMEKILLER, DANI DOMBROWSKI, LOUIS GAMESON, LIAM TURNTON, @SLIPKNXCK, @MATOUXN, @XVISUA JACK ALLEN, ROMAN LARIS** - IF I MISSED ANYONE, PLEASE CONTACT ME SO I CAN CREDIT YOU

PHOTOS BY LIAM GAUNTLETT, ROMAN LARIS

Year Of The Knife

YEAR OF THE KNIFE ARE A FUCKING BIG DEAL. ULTIMATE AGGRESSION (A COMPILATION OF THE PREVIOUS EP'S) IS A FITTING NAME FOR THEIR LATEST RELEASE, WHICH IS BEST DESCRIBED AS 28 MINUTES OF UNFILTERED RAGE. YOTK ARE INTENSE, AND INSTANTLY RECOGNISABLE FROM THE FIRST NOTES THEY PLAY. TYLER MULLEN IS THE BAND'S VOCALIST, BUT HE IS ALSO KNOWN WITHIN THE HARDCORE SCENE FOR HIS GRAPHIC ARTWORK.

HEY MULLY, HOW YOU DOING MAN? KEEPING BUSY DURING LOCKDOWN?
DOING GOOD MAN, BEEN TRYING TO STAY PRODUCTIVE. AND PROCESS THIS CONFUSING TIME IN A HEALTHY MANNER.

SO WHERE DID IT ALL START - DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR FIRST HARDCORE SHOW?
I CAN'T RECALL MY FIRST HARDCORE SHOW SADLY, BUT MY FIRST SHOW WAS JUST SOME LOCAL PUNK BANDS IN MY TOWN. THEN THE NEXT DAY MY BROTHER TOOK ME TO WARPED TOUR IN CAMDEN, N.J IN 2004.

YOTK ARE GETTING BIGGER AND BIGGER, HOW WAS THE UK TOUR LAST YEAR? II DIDN'T MAKE ANY OF THE DATES BUT HEARD INCREDIBLE THINGS.
LOOKING BACK IT WAS GREAT AND I MISS IT. I PERSONALLY WASN'T READY TO BE ON TOUR AROUND THAT TIME, BUT I MADE THE BEST OF IT. THE SHOWS WERE SO COOL, SOME OF THE SMALLER TOWN SHOWS WE THOUGHT NOBODY WOULD COME OUT TOO, ENDED UP BEING THE MOST ELECTRIC. THIS SHOW IN CARDIFF, UK WAS AWESOME! WE HAD A GREAT TIME CHILLING WITH CHAMBER AND I ALWAYS LOOK FORWARD TO RIDING THE FERRY ACROSS THE ENGLISH CHANNEL.

LISTEN TO YOTK HERE

ARE THERE ANY BIG DIFFERENCES BETWEEN UK AND US SCENES?
BOTH ARE PRETTY STRONG, AND VERY SUPPORTIVE OF THEIR SCENE. US IS OBVIOUSLY MORE VAST AND HAS HUNDREDS OF BANDS, IT CAN BE HARD TO KEEP UP. BUT I LOOK FORWARD TO ALWAYS HEARING BANDS FROM THE UK, VERY INTERESTING STYLES, I PERSONALLY THINK VOCALISTS SOUND THE COOLEST FROM THE UK HAHA. GRAMMAR AND PRONUNCIATION ARE KEY OVER THERE.

WHO'S YOUR FAVOURITE EDGE BAND RIGHT NOW? I'M RATING PAYBACK HARD AT THE MOMENT.
D HAVE TO SAY PAYBACK ALSO, THEY ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT HARDCORE AND HAVE BROUGHT A MEANING AND REALIZATION OF UNITY TO A LOT OF KIDS AS WELL AS ME.

YOU DO LOGOS AND ARTWORK TOO, IS THERE ANYTHING YOU'RE PARTICULARLY PROUD OF?
I'M PROUD OF MY STYLE EVOLVING FROM WHEN I STARTED. AS FAR AS LOGO WISE, I'M PROUD OF THE NO OPTION LOGO, THEY REPRESENT IT THE HARDEST. I DID THAT FOR 20 BUCKS IN 20 MINUTES.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH IT'S YOTK THIS YEAR? ANYTHING EXCITING PLANNED?
WE HAVE A NEW ALBUM COMING OUT, 13 CRAZY SONGS AND SOME TOURING AHEAD OF US.

THANKS FOR YOUR TIME MAN, ANYTHING YOU WANT TO SAY?
THANKS FOR THE INTERESTING QUESTIONS. I PLAY DRUMS IN A NEW BAND CALLED KILLING ME AND CARBONITE, CHECK IT OUT. NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF YOUR PASSIONS AND TAKE CARE OF YOUR HEAD.

FINALLY, THERE WAS A VIDEO OF YOU GUYS PLAYING I WILL BE HEARD GOINGOUND LAST YEAR. WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE HATEBREED RECORD?
PERSEVERANCE, THAT RECORD FLIPS A SWITCH FOR ME.

PHOTOS BY DEC BRECKON

MOURNING

HI CONNOR, HOPE YOU'RE GOOD MAN. CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT MOURNING – WHO'S INVOLVED?
HI ALEC, MOURNING IS THE PUREST METALLIC HARDCORE UNIT THE WORLD HASEVER SEEN COMPROMISING OF MYSELF, SEB ON DRUMS, SWEEP ON BASS, RAYNER & BEN BRODIE ON GUITARS.

I'M SURE I'VE HEARD YOU WROTE THE FIRST RELEASE ON YOUR OWN, IS THAT RIGHT? THAT'S MAD MAN
I'VE WROTE EVERYTHING THE BAND HAS DONE UP TO THIS POINT, I'LL NORMALLY WRITE THE SONGS, RECORD THEM ON GUITAR AS VOICE MEMOS AND SEND THEM TO SEB. WE THEN GO TO A STUDIO, RECORD IT ALL THEN TEACH THE OTHERS THE SONGS WHEN IT COMES TO PLAYING IT LIVE. WE JUST RECORDED 3 NEW SONGS IN GLASGOW BETWEEN THE TWO OF US, BEN TRACKED THE BASS ON THE SONGS AFTERWARDS.

PYC SEEM TO BE REALLY PUSHING YOU GUYS IN THE US, WHICH IS AWESOME. HOW DID THAT RELATIONSHIP COME ABOUT?
RAYNER KNEW THE SOUTH FLORIDA LOT FROM RENOUNCED TOURING WITH DRAWING LAST BREATH A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO AND GOING OVER TO FLORIDA JUST TO HANG OUT WITH THEM. WHEN HE JOINED US HE PUT OUR SACRED PROFANITY DEMO TAPE IN A GROUP CHAT HE'S IN WITH THEM AND KYLE WHO RUNS ARDUOUS PATH RECORDINGS LIKED IT ENOUGH TO WANT TO PUT IT OUT ON TAPE IN THE US. IT SOLD OUT PRETTY QUICKLY SO LENNON WAS UP FOR PUTTING OUT OUR EP ON PYC AFTERWARDS, ARDUOUS PATH IS LIKE THE DEMO LABEL FOR PYC IN SOME RESPECTS AS THEY DID THE SAME WITH SIMULAKRA.

THE SEED OF PAIN LP IS INCREDIBLE. HOW WAS THE TOUR WITH THEM? DID YOU THINK A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO THAT YOU'D BE PLAYING FYA WITH DISEMBODIED?
SEED OF PAIN LP IS FOR SURE ONE OF THE BEST HARDCORE LPS OF 2020. TOUR WAS SICK IN BOTH MEANINGS OF THE WORD, WE'VE TOURED WITH THEM TWICE NOW AND THEY'RE UP THERE AS MY FAVOURITE BAND I'VE EVER TOURED WITH. WE ALL GOT HORRENDOUSLY ILL ON THE US RUN, SEB BROKE HIS NOSE AND CUT HIS ARM THAT WENT SEPTIC, SWEEP GOT PINK EYE AND HAS PERMANENTLY DAMAGED ONE OF HIS EYES, I'M CONVINCED WE GOT COVID-19 BEFORE THE PANDEMIC OFFICIALLY HIT. I NEVER THOUGHT WE'D GET TO PLAY FYA, I'VE TOURED THE US BEFORE WITH SHRAPNEL BUT I DIDN'T THINK IT'D HAPPEN AGAIN SO TO BE ABLE TO DO IT AGAIN WITH A NEW BAND WAS BEYOND SICK. DISEMBODIED SET WAS CLASS, I'VE SEEN THEM BEFORE IN 2010 & 2018, THEY ONLY HAD 1 GUITARIST INSTEAD OF THE NORMAL 2 BUT THEY WERE STILL HEAVY AS HELL. OTHER NOTABLE SETS OF FYA WERE KILLING TIME, MH CHAOS, PAYBACK XXX, SEED OF PAIN AND SIMULAKRA.

I'VE NEVER BEEN TO THE US. ARE SHOWS THERE ANY DIFFERENT TO OVER HERE?
THEY ARE TO AN EXTENT, IT'S ALL KINDA REGIONAL. FOR EXAMPLE THE PIZZA RESTAURANT WE PLAYED IN LOUISVILLE, KY WAS SMALL, EQUAL AMOUNT OF GIRLS AND GUYS TURNOUT, PRETTY SUBDUED REACTION, THEN WE PLAYED A PACKED OUT IRISH BAR IN LONG ISLAND, NY AND GROWN MEN WERE JUMPING OFF POOL TABLES I NOTE INTO OUR SET. THE UK IS SIMILAR THOUGH, A SHOW AT NEW RIVER STUDIOS IN LONDON FEELS WAY DIFFERENT TO A SHOW AT AUDIO IN GLASGOW. MAYBE THE BIGGER DIFFERENCE IS THERE IS MUCH MORE PRIDE IN REGIONAL SOUNDS WITH THE BANDS IN THE US, LIKE PAYBACK SOUNDING LIKE KRUTCH, KOYO SOUNDING LIKE TAKING BACK SUNDAY ETC IS ALL HOMAGES TO THE STATES THEY ARE FROM WHICH IS VERY COOL. I THINK BANDS IN THE UK SHOULD LEARN SOMETHING FROM IT.

LISTEN TO MOURNING HERE

"ALONE AGAINST ALL"

TCS IS DOING A 12" WITH ALL YOUR PREVIOUSLY RELEASED MUSIC, AND A COUPLE OF NEW TRACKS. ECSTATIC MASOCHIST IS FUCKING GREAT, SO I'M PUMPED FOR THE NEW STUFF. WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM THE NEW SONGS? AM I GOING TO MOSH THE KIDS OUT AT BREAKFAST AGAIN?
THANKS. THERE'S 4 NEW SONGS WE'VE GOT RECORDED, 2 ORIGINALS AND 2 COVERS. THE 2 NEW ORIGINALS TRACKS ABANDON THE FORMULA THE EP TRACKS AND ARE MUCH HEAVIER THAN WHAT WE'VE PREVIOUSLY PUT OUT, ONE IS WAY MORE INFLUENCED BY BLACK METAL THAN HARDCORE AND THE OTHER IS PROBABLY THE MOST 'MODERN' SOUNDING WE'VE GOT SO FAR. MORE SEETHING LYRICS THAT WILL CONTINUE THE TREND OF UPSETTING PEOPLE WHO CLAIM NOT TO LISTEN TO US, SO FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY.

WHAT ELSE DOES MOURNING HAVE PLANNED THIS YEAR?
WE SHOULD'VE TOURED UK/EUROPE WITH PAYBACK FROM PHILADELPHIA IN MAY BUT THAT ISN'T HAPPENING CAUSE OF THE PANDEMIC SO THAT'LL BE RESCHEDULED AT SOME POINT LATER IN THE YEAR. DEPENDING ON HOW LONG WE ARE IN LOCKDOWN FOR, MOURNING MIGHT BECOME THE DUNGEON SYNTH PROJECT I'VE ALWAYS WANTED IT TO BE. WE MAY SQUEEZE OUT AN LP JUST BEFORE I VANISH TO GO LIVE ON THE ORKNEY ISLANDS TO PREP FOR THE US/CHINA WORLD WAR.

THANKS MATE, QUICK LAST QUESTION – HARLEY OR JJ CRO MAGS?
HARLEY, SEEN BOTH HARLEY MAGS & JJ MAGS TWICE EACH AND HARLEY WAS BETTER BOTH TIMES, SETLIST WISE AND BANTER WISE. HARLEY IS ALSO THE ONLY ONE CAN LEGITIMATELY CLAIM THE CRO MAGS NAME SEEING AS HE'S THE ONLY MEMBER TO FEATURE ON ALL THE ALBUMS, WOULD BE GREAT TO SEE MACKIE PLAY WITH HARLEY AGAIN BUT ONE CAN DREAM.

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THE UPCOMING 12"
COMING OUT SOON ON THE COMING STRIFE RECORDS

PHOTOS BY DANI DOMBROWSKI, @CALLMEKILLER

FRACTURETV

DOCUMENTING UKHC DIY STYLE

FRACTURETV IS RUN BY ROSIE MCALINDEN AND DANE "CVHC" BARKER.

THIS PROJECT BEGAN AFTER A FEW NON-SERIOUS SHOOTS AT LOCAL HARDCORE SHOWS IN BIRMINGHAM (UK), WHERE WE WOULD FILM A FEW BANDS AND A BIT OF MOSH ACTION ON AN OLD JVC CAMCORDER. THEN AFTER THE SHOW, WE MERGE THE FOOTAGE TOGETHER TO PUT ONLINE ON OUR PERSONAL SOCIAL MEDIA FOR THE SHOW GOERS TO REMEMBER THE EXPERIENCE BY – NOTHING HEAVILY SERIOUS, JUST FOR FUN. NOT LONG AFTER, LOCAL HEADS IN BIRMINGHAM AND AROUND THE UK STARTED TO TAKE NOTICE OF OUR EDITS AND WE GOT QUITE A BIT OF INTERACTION ONLINE, SO WE BOTH DECIDED TO EXPAND OUR LITTLE HOBBY INTO SOMETHING BIGGER AND THAT'S HOW FRACTURETV CAME ABOUT.

START YOUR GUERILLA WARFARE DEEP-DIVE HERE

WE'RE HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY THE GUERRILLA WARFARE VIDEO FANZINES, WHICH SHOWCASED THE NEW JERSEY/NEW YORK HARDCORE SCENE FROM 2001 – 2003 VIA CAMCORDER FOOTAGE FROM SHOWS, MUSIC VIDEOS, AND BAND INTERVIEWS. THEY ALSO SHOT FEATURES WITH PEOPLE INVOLVED WITH THE SCENE AT THE TIME, SUCH AS PRODUCERS FOR EXAMPLE.

WHAT REALLY INSPIRED US FROM THESE SERIES OF FANZINES IS THE WAY EVERYTHING WAS DOCUMENTED. IT SHOWED KIDS AT SHOWS MOSHING HARD, THE BANDS KICKING IT ONSTAGE AND THE WHOLE AESTHETIC OF IT WAS RAW AND DIY. NOTHING FANCY, JUST REAL GOON STYLE. WHICH IS WHAT WE ALSO WANT DO WITH FRACTURETV! CAPTURING WHAT THE HARDCORE SCENE AND SUB-CULTURE IS ABOUT. YOU CAN FIND FULL DIGITALISED VERSIONS OF GUERILLA WARFARE VIDS ON YOUTUBE IF YOU DO SOME DIGGING, NORTH JERSEY EDITION, NEVER GIVE UP, DIVERSITY AND WWIII TOUR OF JAPAN. THE YOUTUBE CHANNEL "PRESERVING HARDCORE" HAS SOME AMAZING VIDEO FOOTAGE AS WELL WHICH YOU SHOULD 100% CHECK

MOST OF OUR FOOTAGE FROM SHOWS GOES INTO VIDEO EDITS WHICH WE PUT ON INSTAGRAM AND FACEBOOK, WHICH SHOWCASE THE BANDS PERFORMING AND THE MOSHERS TEARING UP THE VENUE.

SOCIAL MEDIA: @FRACTURETVUK
YOUTUBE CHANNEL: FRACTURETV

EMAIL: FRACTURETVUK@GMAIL.COM

FRACTURETV

WE HAVEN'T BEEN AROUND FOR TOO LONG, JUST A HANDFUL OF MONTHS, BUT WE'VE FILMED TONNES OF BANDS FROM ENEMY MIND, REVULSION, BUN DEM OUT, MALEVOLENCE, RENOUNCED, KNOCKED LOOSE AND SPLITKNUCKLE, TO JUST NAME A FEW. RECENTLY WE ALSO PUT TOGETHER THE "MURDER CAPITAL" MUSIC VIDEO FOR COLD HARD TRUTH OFF THEIR RECENT RECORD RELEASE "INTIMIDATION" WHICH WAS CLASS, GOT TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT AGAIN SOON.

SEE THE FULL SETS HERE

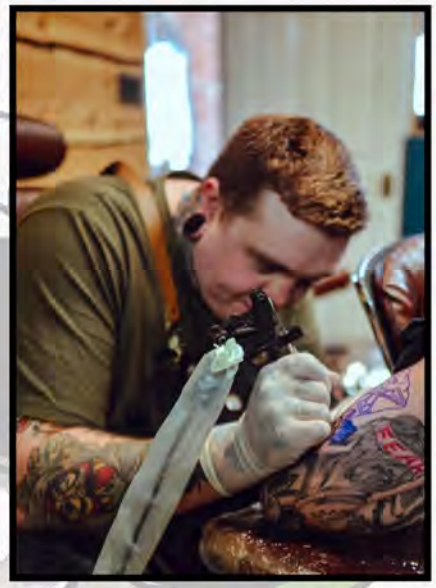
WE ALSO HAVE TWO LIVE FULL MULTICAM SETS ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL OF CAULDRON AND MANTLET CVHC FROM CAULDRON'S MOST RECENT EP RELEASE SHOW IN BIRMINGHAM WHICH POPPED OFF BIG TIME.

YOU CAN EXPECT TO US TO BE AT A LOCAL SHOW SOMETIME SOON WITH OUR CAMCORDER RIGS GETTING THE BEST MOSH MOVES AND LIVE MOMENTS FROM THE UK HARDCORE SCENE.

DROP US A FOLLOW ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES TO CHECK OUT OUR WORK AND ANY ENQUIRES HIT US UP WITH AN EMAIL, WE'D LOVE TO WORK WITH YOUR IDEAS WHETHER YOU'RE A PROMOTER OR BAND

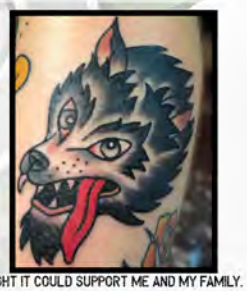
PHOTOS BY DANE BARKER, ©LONDONHXC

CHAT WITH AN ARTIST



ASH AUSTIN IS A YOUNG TATTOO ARTIST, WHO CURRENTLY WORKS AT PROJECT ZERO TATTOOS IN LICHFIELD. HE SPECIALISES IN TRADITIONAL STYLE TATTOOS, AND HAND PAINTS HIS FAVOURITE DESIGNS. I MET HIM AT A SHOW LAST YEAR, AND I'M PROUD TO NOW BE MATES WITH SUCH AN INCREDIBLE ARTIST! WE DON'T TEND TO TALK ABOUT WORK MUCH, BUT I WANTED TO ASK A FEW MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT HE DOES FOR THIS SHORT INTERVIEW;

HEY ASH, HOW YOU DOING?
I'M GOOD DUDE. THANK YOU FOR ASKING ME TO BE PART OF THIS!



FIRST OF ALL, HOW DID YOU GET INTO TATTOOING? HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN DOING IT FOR NOW?
I'VE BEEN TATTOOING FOR ROUGHLY 4 YEARS ALL TOGETHER WITH MY APPRENTICESHIP. BUT IT'S ONLY REALLY THE LAST YEAR AND HALF THAT I HAVE BEEN TATTOOING PAYING CUSTOMERS.

HAVE YOU ALWAYS BEEN INTO DRAWING/PAINTING? DID YOU EVER THINK YOU'D MAKE A "CAREER" OUT OF IT?
ALWAYS. IT'S THE ONLY THING I'VE BEEN GOOD AT REALLY. ALWAYS WANTED TO DO SOMETHING WITH IT, BUT NEVER THOUGHT IT COULD SUPPORT ME AND MY FAMILY. I'VE ONLY JUST STARTED TO SELL MY ARTWORK BUT I STRUGGLE WITH MY SELF-CONFIDENCE, SO STILL FIND IT HARD TO PART WAYS WITH STUFF I'M NOT 100% HAPPY WITH! BUT I'M GETTING BETTER!

YOU HAVE A VERY TRAD STYLE, WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVOURITE THINGS TO TATTOO?
ANYTHING AS LONG AS IT'S BOLD AND STRONG. I LOVE EVERY STYLE OF TATTOOING BUT AMERICAN TRADITIONAL AND TRADITIONAL JAPANESE ICONOGRAPHY ARE MY FAVOURITES! I LOVE THE FACT THEY ARE BOTH RICH IN HISTORY AND TRADITION! I'VE ALWAYS REALLY LOVED LA/CHICANO/GANGSTER CULTURE AND ARTWORK, SO I HAVE BEEN DELVING INTO THAT RECENTLY TOO.

YOU'VE RECENTLY STARTED WORKING WITH SOME GRAFFITI STYLE LOGOS AND LETTERING TOO. HOW DID THAT START?
I'VE ALWAYS LOVED GRAFFITI BUT HAVE NEVER PUT IT INTO PRACTISE. I HAVE A MASSIVE PASSION FOR LETTERING TATTOOS AND GENERALLY LOVE LETTERS. I LOVE SEEING HAND PAINTED SIGNS AND HANDWRITTEN FONTS SO IT WAS A NATURAL PROGRESSION. I THINK MAKING LETTERS LOOK GOOD IS ONE OF THE HARDEST THINGS TO DO AND I'M STILL NOWHERE NEAR GOOD AT IT! BUT PRACTISE MAKES PERFECT.

YOU'VE DONE SOME LOGOS FOR UKHC BANDS RECENTLY, THE NEW SUPPRESS LOGO IS FUCKING INSANE. ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC BANDS YOU'D BE DOWN TO WORK WITH?
THANKS MAN. I LOVED DOING IT!
GOD, WAY TOO MANY TO MENTION. I LOVE WHAT THE BOYS IN LAST WISHES ARE DOING AT THE MOMENT AND ALL THEIR ARTWORK IS DEAD COOL. THEY SEEM LIKE THEY'D HAVE SOME FUN IDEAS. I'D LOVE TO WORK WITH SOME OF THE BIG AMERICAN GUYS BUT IN TERMS OF UKHC; CAULDRON, COLD HARD TRUTH, PHAZE TWO, THE MANTLET BOYS OBVIOUSLY... THE LIST IS HUGE MATE. IF I LIKE THE MUSIC AND THEY HAVE SOME COOL IDEAS I'D WORK WITH ANYONE! HAHA

HOW CAN PEOPLE GET IN TOUCH IF THEY WANT LOGOS OR ARTWORK DRAWING UP?
THEY CAN VISIT MY INSTAGRAM @ASHAUSTINTATTOO AND SLIDE INTO MY DM'S OR THEY CAN EMAIL ME AT ASHAUSTINTATTOO@HOTMAIL.COM.

I'M ALWAYS UP FOR LOGOS OR ARTWORK. I ALWAYS TAKE COMMISSIONS FOR PAINTINGS AS WELL, WHETHER YOU'RE IN A BAND OR NOT! HAHA

ALSO HIT ME UP FOR SOME SICK TATTOOS. BOOKS ALWAYS OPEN!

ANYTHING ELSE EXCITING THAT YOU WANT TO TELL US ABOUT?
I HAVE PRINTS AND ORIGINAL ARTWORK AVAILABLE ON MY INSTAGRAM AND WILL HAVE SOME NEW MERCHANDISE COMING IN THE NEAR FUTURE!

LAST FUN ONE — WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE UKHC RECORD?
TRICKY ONE, SO I'M GONNA TAKE THE EASY WAY OUT AND NAME A FEW...

MANTLET - BURNING
LAST WISHES - STEPPED ON SINCE BIRTH
BUN DEM OUT - THE FEW THE DEEP
SIX FT DITCH - VOICES FROM AN EVIL GOD
PHAZE TWO - FOR THE CORE

INSTA - @ASHAUSTINTATTOO FB - ASH AUSTIN TATTOO

CHECK OUT ASH'S WORK HERE

PHOTOS BY ASH AUSTIN, LOUIS GAMESON

Check it out...

by Jack Beale-Burchell

In this day and age Hardcore bands are always coming and going, and to a certain extent it becomes quite hard to track who's active/still together/broken up etc.

I wouldn't describe myself as one of those people who has their finger on the pulse constantly when it comes to new bands or music, as I like to discover things in my own way.
So here's a few bands that I stumbled upon in the last twelve months that I really enjoy.

True Form:
Florida has given us bands such as Ecostrike, Day By Day, Bind, Blistered and Seed Of Pain and many others alongside a host of new and hardworking labels putting out some excellent bands.
This is the case with IOU Records (It's On Us Records) and True Form.
With a demo, single and EP now under their belt, True Form have already demonstrated what they are capable of musically and leave much anticipation of what is going to come next from them.
I find this band to be brilliant and are in my constant Spotify rotation at the minute.

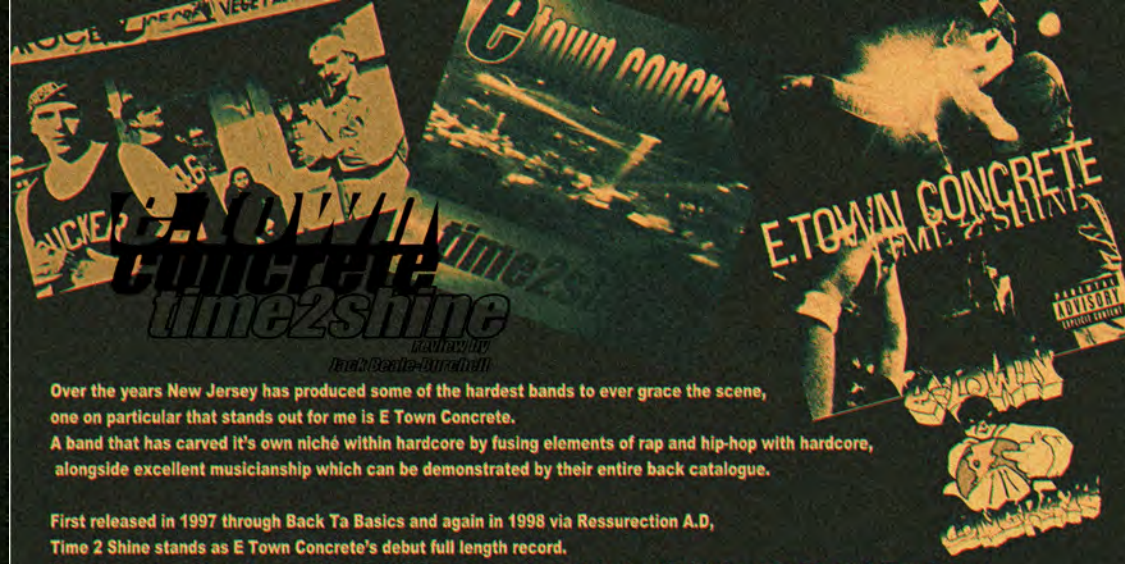
FFO: Ecostrike/Magnitude/Bind.
Latest release: Control (IOU#25)

World Demise:
Coming out of New Jersey, World Demise features ex-members of Suburban Scum, The Mongoloids and Manipulate. This band sounds exactly how you'd expect this band to sound in the sense that it's metallic, aggressive and hard.
Forming in 2017 and putting two of their releases out through Flatspot Records, they've played a host of shows, including 2018's This Is Hardcore fest.
There is more than enough music for you to sink your teeth into with World Demise, with three releases up on their bandcamp, and hopefully we will be seeing a full length from them sooner rather than later.

FFO: Suburban Scum/Cold As Life/Fury Of Five.
Latest release: Demo 2020 (FSR51)

Seed Of Pain:
Another heavy hitter winging and kicking their way out of Florida in recent years, Seed Of Pain bring a 90's metallic hardcore sound and bags of musical ability.
Becoming more visible on my radar in the last 12-18 months, I only really gave them a chance when they dropped "Back Again" last year, but that was enough to keep them at the forefront of my listening rotation. With members from Ecostrike, Moment Of Truth and Envision they really are a 'supergroup' of the South Florida Hardcore scene.
With the majority of their releases out on Plead Your Case records, and a split with the UK's Mourning, expect more to come from Seed Of Pain as they carve a path through the hardcore landscape.

FFO: Strife/Never Ending Game/Point Of Contact
Latest release: Flesh, Steel, Victory... (PYC025)



E Town Concrete: time2shine

Written by Jack Beale-Burchell

Over the years New Jersey has produced some of the hardest bands to ever grace the scene, one on particular that stands out for me is E Town Concrete.
A band that has carved it's own niché within hardcore by fusing elements of rap and hip-hop with hardcore, alongside excellent musicianship which can be demonstrated by their entire back catalogue.

First released in 1997 through Back Ta Basics and again in 1998 via Ressurection A.D, Time 2 Shine stands as E Town Concrete's debut full length record.
Boasting mosh worthy anthems such as End Of The Rainbow, Justwatchastep, Hindsight and the title track (Time 2 Shine) the record is a near 35 minute onslaught of musical diversity and visceral aggression wrapped up in ETC's brand of unique hardcore.
And it gets even longer when you look at the 2003 reissue which adds live versions of the title track and Hold Up.

The record for me is a favourite, moving sonically through mosh tunes to Spanish guitar influenced interludes, to hip-hopesque beats recreated with the band.
This record leaves no stone unturned when it comes to exploring creative avenues and is a testament to legacy that E Town Concrete have left on the hardcore scene.

If you want evidence to how much this record jumps around with its genre bending sonic assault, then try and tell me that the band that wrote Time 2 Shine, One Life To Live and I Got This are one and the same.

Admittedly I would have never paid any attention to this band if it wasn't for my friend getting my band to cover End Of The Rainbow.
Initially I thought this was just going to be another case of "lets cover an obscure hardcore band" but I quickly realised that the level of musical ability that went into writing a song with as many time signature changes and parts that are shoehorned together to fit.
From this moment onwards I was hooked.

If this record doesn't grip your attention then I don't know how much more I can sell this to you, at the end of the day my view on this record is my opinion, I see it through rose coloured glasses because I love it and I hope that you take the chance to go and listen this if you haven't yet.

Words & Layout by
Jack Beale-Burchell

vent

ESCAPE FROM MYSELF - VENT'S FIRST RELEASE SMASHES CHAOTIC METALCORE AND HEAVY STOMP RIFFS TOGETHER SEAMLESSLY.

THIS EP STARTS FAST — LIKE, REALLY FAST. MY FIRST THOUGHT ON OPENER VENT WAS THAT OF SEEYOUSPACECOWBOY DISCORDANCE, BUT THE GHC GROOVE KICKS IN BEFORE LONG. THIS WAS WRITTEN FOR PEOPLE TO MOSH TO. PUNCHLINE STARTS WITH A TRAPPED UNDER ICE STYLE GROOVE, THE LIKES OF WHICH ARE PEPPERED THROUGHOUT THIS EP, BEFORE GIVING WAY TO A CHAOTICALLY FAST SONG WITH PLENTY OF MIC-GRAB MOMENTS. STUCK SHOWS OFF MORE OF THE DANCE GROOVES, BUT THE STANDOUT SONG IS REVEAL. EVERYTHING ABOUT REVEAL IS AGGY. GEMMA SOUNDS PISSED OFF THROUGHOUT, THE RIFFS HIT HARDER THAN ANYWHERE ELSE ON THIS EP, AND THERE'S SOME REAL BEATDOWN MOMENTS TOWARDS THE FINALE.

PRODUCTION IS GOOD THROUGHOUT AND THE DRUMS IN PARTICULAR SOUND HEAVY AS FUCK.

THIS IS A GROOVY RECORD, WITH NO END OF MIC-GRABS AND MOSH CALLS. IT'S DEFINITELY ONE FOR A LIVE AUDIENCE, WHICH EXPLAINS WHY THE BAND HAVE BEEN SMASHING SHOWS AND PLAYING ON SOME SICK LINE-UPS. KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED FOR MORE FROM VENT.

LISTEN TO VENT HERE

OUT NOW ON SPOTIFY, APPLE MUSIC ETC.

I CAUGHT UP WITH VENT VOCALIST GEMMA TO TALK ABOUT THEIR FIRST FEW SHOWS AND THE "ESCAPE FROM MYSELF" EP

HEY GEMMA, HOW'S IT GOING?
HEY ALEC, GOES ALRIGHT! YOURSELF? THANKS FOR ASKING ME TO DO THIS, IT'S REALLY COOL.

COULD YOU INTRODUCE US TO THE BAND — WHO PLAYS WHAT AND WHERE ARE YOU BASED?
SO I'M GEMMA, I DO VOCALS, WE GOT TAM AND ROSS ON GUITAR, LEWIS ON BASS AND PAUL ON DRUMS! WE'RE ALL ORIGINALLY BASED IN DIFFERENT PLACES IN SCOTLAND, I'M FROM LANARKSHIRE, PAUL'S FROM GREENOCK, LEWIS IS FROM AYRSHIRE, TAM AND ROSS BEING THE FURTHEST, IN DUNFERMLINE FOR ROSS AND DUMFRIES FOR TAM, THEY MOVED TO GLASGOW SO THAT'S WHERE WE BASE OUR PRACTICES AND SHOWS. IT'S A GOOD CENTRE POINT FOR PEOPLE TO MEET WITH LOTS OF COOL STUFF GOING ON.

YOU JUST RELEASED "ESCAPE FROM MYSELF", WHICH HAS HAD A GOOD RECEPTION SO FAR. THERE'S A REALLY GREAT FLOW THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EP — WHAT WERE SOME OF YOUR INFLUENCES WHILE WRITING?
YEAH WE DID, IT'S BEEN WILD AND WE'RE REALLY GLAD THAT PEOPLE DIG IT!! THANK YOU SO MUCH! IN TERMS OF INFLUENCES, I'D SAY MORTALITY RATE, SPLITKNUCKLE, ADJUST, JESUS PIECE AND LOADS MORE. WE ALL LIKE SO MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF MUSIC SO I THINK WE GET INFLUENCE FROM EVERYWHERE CLICHE AS IT MIGHT SOUND. WE LIKE TO MAKE TUNES THAT MAKE US EXCITED AND THAT WE WANNA BOOGIE TO. IN TERMS OF LYRICS, ALL OF THEM WERE PERSONAL. ROSS WROTE THE LYRICS FOR PUNCHLINE, I WROTE THE REST, BUT THEY ALL SHARED A THEME OF PERSONAL STRUGGLE AS WELL AS JUST BEING GENERALLY ANNOYED AT THE WORLD (HARDCORE FOR YE EH) ONE OF THE REASONS WHY WE THOUGHT ESCAPE FROM MYSELF WOULD BE A FITTING TITLE.

YOUR FIRST SHOW WAS WITH MORTALITY RATE, RIGHT? THAT'S PRETTY COOL. HAS YOUR LIVE RECEPTION BEEN GOOD?
IT WAS AND IT'S TO DATE STILL MY FAVOURITE SHOW WE'VE PLAYED. MORTALITY RATE HOLD A PLACE IN MY HEART COS THEY'RE ONE OF THE BANDS THAT MADE ME WANNA GET UP AND DO VOCALS SO IT WAS A WILD MOMENT. LIVE RECEPTION HAS BEEN REALLY COOL, ESPECIALLY COS OUR MATES ALWAYS TURN OUT FOR EACH SHOW TO SUPPORT WHICH MEANS THE WORLD. THE TURNOUT AND LOVE FOR THE FIRST ONE JUST GAVE ME A CONSTANT SMILE I COULDN'T WIPE OFF COS I COULDN'T BELIEVE PEOPLE WERE VIBING WITH OUR MUSIC LIKE THAT OFF THE BAT. SIMILAR FEELING TO MANCHESTER, OUR FIRST SHOW AWAY FROM HOME, IT WAS SOLD OUT AND WE GOT PEOPLE MOVING ABOUT AND HADN'T EVEN RELEASED OUR TUNES AT THAT POINT - MAD SCENES. EASY TO SAY WE'RE CHUFFED AND FEEL BLESSED WITH THE SUPPORT.

GLASGOW SEEMS TO HAVE A GREAT SCENE, YOU GUYS HAVE REVULSION, REVOLVE, KINGPIN ETC. WHAT'S THE CRAZIEST GHC SHOW YOU'VE BEEN TO?
CHARITY SHOW IN JUNE 2018 WAS INSANE. WAS AT G2 AND IF I'M RIGHT I THINK WE RAISED OVER £1200 FOR CHARITY WHICH WAS INSANE. THERE WAS LIKE 8 BANDS INCLUDING REVULSION, REVOLVE, RAZORBITE, ADJUST ETC DURING THE SUMMER SO IT WAS A PROPER SWEATY ONE BUT ONE OF GHC'S MOST PROUD MOMENTS FOR SURE. SO MANY MATES, SO MUCH MOSHING AND GOOD ENERGY: REMINDING ME WHAT IT WAS ALL ABOUT.

HAVE YOU GOT ANY RECOMMENDATIONS ON NEW BANDS OR RELEASES WE SHOULD CHECK OUT?
KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR AFTERBURN, THEY'RE RELEASING THEIR 2ND EP SOON, PROPER GROOVY HARDCORE WITH DAVID TAN IN VOCALS WHO FILMS AND PUTS SO MUCH TIME AND EFFORT INTO BANDS SETS AND HAS DONE A LOT FOR UKHC. KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR MANTRA AS WELL, SAW THEM WHEN WE PLAYED TOGETHER IN MANCHESTER AND THEY'RE MEGA SICK. MANTLET GOT SOME NEW STUFF COMING OUT THAT I'M ALSO BUZZED TO HEAR! REVULSION RELEASE SOON TOO OF COURSE, GONNA BE MAD.

I KNOW IT'S HARD TO SAY AT THE MOMENT WITH SO MANY SHOWS BEING CANCELLED, BUT WHAT'S NEXT FOR VENT? ANYTHING EXCITING HAPPENING THIS YEAR?
NOTHING SET IN STONE YET, BUT HOPEFULLY GET BACK TO THE STUDIO ONCE ALL THE COMMOTION IS OVER N GET SOME MORE STUFF OUT FOR PEOPLE TO DANCE TO. ALSO TRY PLAY MORE SHOWS AWAY FROM HOME!

LAST QUESTION, YOU CAN DO A SPLIT 7" WITH ANY BAND YOU LIKE — WHO DO YOU PICK?
WOULD BE SICK TO DO A SPLIT WITH VISION QUEST.

"STOP LOOKING ROUND FOR HELP, THERE ARE NO SAVIOURS"

PHOTOS BY JACK ALLEN, LIAM TURNTON, @SLIPNXCKPHOTOGRAPHY

YOU ALREADY KNOW WHO THESE GUYS ARE - READY EYE COLLECTIVE PUT ON SOME OF THE HARDEST SHOWS IN THE COUNTRY, AND ALWAYS MAKE A HUGE EFFORT TO PUSH BOTH UPCOMING AND ESTABLISHED UK BANDS. RICH WOODING ANSWERED A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT UKHC AND PUTTING ON SHOWS.

READY EYE COLLECTIVE

YO WHAT'S UP RICH.THANKS FOR TAKING THE TIME TO DO THIS - CAN YOU GIVE US A RUNDOWN ON READY EYE COLLECTIVE? WHO'S INVOLVED, AND WHAT BANDS DOES EVERYONE PLAY IN?
NO WORRIES AT ALL MATE, HAPPY TO DO IT!
READY EYE COLLECTIVE IS MYSELF, JOHN KATA, LOUIS GINO AND FERG SIMONDS.
I CURRENTLY DON'T PLAY IN ANY BANDS, WHICH IS PRETTY STRANGE FOR ME CONSIDERING UP UNTIL 2019 I'D BEEN IN BANDS FOR 16 YEARS OF MY LIFE! WORKING ON A NEW PROJECT THAT I'LL HOPEFULLY BE DOING VOCALS ON. I'VE PREVIOUSLY PLAYED IN MAAAAANY BANDS, HARDCORE/HEAVY ONES BEING 50 CALIBER, IRONED OUT, BLACK SHAPES AND DOWNWARD SPIRAL TO NAME A FEW. JOHN DOES VOCALS IN INFRACTION, AND PREVIOUSLY PROVEN AND WARCHRIST. LOUIS DOES VOCALS IN IRONED OUT AND LAST ORDERS, AND PREVIOUSLY PROVEN CRIPPLER (ALTHOUGH CRIPPLER WERE SCHEDULED TO PLAY A 'COMEBACK SHOW' BEFORE ALL THIS MAD SHIT KICKED OFF). HE ALSO OCCASIONALLY FILLS IN FOR LONDON HC OGS IN JURY TIME.
FERG IS CURRENTLY WORKING ON A NEW PROJECT AND PREVIOUSLY DID VOCALS FORT VALLANCE.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN PUTTING ON SHOWS UNDER READY EYE? DO YOU REMEMBER THE FIRST ONE? ANY HIGHLIGHTS?
WE'VE BEEN DOING READY EYE COLLECTIVE SHOWS SINCE MARCH 2017, BUT I'VE BEEN PUTTING ON SHOWS ON AND OFF SINCE 2006.
I REMEMBER THE FIRST REC SHOW WELL! WE HAD 50 CALIBER, LAST HOPE (BULGARIA), LIFE BETRAYS US, STRANDED, HOPE THROUGH HOSTILITY AND ACTION (RIP EWAN) ALL ROCK T-CHANCES IN TOTTENHAM, WHICH IS SADLY NO LONGER A VENUE. I GUESS THE MAIN HIGHLIGHT WOULD BE HAVING A TOTALLY PACKED FIRST SHOW AND EVERYONE GOING OFF!

YOU GUYS PUT ON BANDS FROM ALL OVER, BUT I KNOW YOU ALL MAKE A POINT OF CHAMPIONING UKHC. WHAT WAS THE FIRST UK BAND YOU SAW?
OF COURSE! IN MY OPINION, BACKING YOUR OWN HOMEGROWN BANDS IS PARAMOUNT. YO, WE'RE ALL INTO BANDS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, BUT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND HEADS THAT JUST JOCK THE US VERSIONS OF WHAT WE ALREADY HAVE IN THE UK, OR JUST THE LATEST FLAVOUR OF THE MONTH. THESE PEOPLE SEEM TO JUMP AT EVERY NEW US HARDCORE BAND COMING OVER AND CAN SPEND £15 PLUS FOR THE PLEASURE, BUT THEN USUALLY WON'T SUPPORT A STACKED LOCAL SHOW OF UK BANDS FOR £5. THIS KIND OF THING HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN ISSUE, AND IT'S DEFINITELY STILL RELEVANT!
THE FIRST UK BAND I EVER SAW WAS STAMPIN' GROUND SUPPORTING AFI & MIDTOWN (CRAZY LINEUP I KNOW) IN 2002. IT'S FUNNY BECAUSE I WAS MUCH MORE INTO PUNK THEN (STILL AM NOW), BUT SEEING STAMPIN' GROUND AND THE INSANE PIT FOR THEM WAS SOMETHING I WAS DEFINITELY INTERESTED IN. I WOULDN'T REALLY GET INTO THE HEAVIER SIDE IF HC FOR A FEW MORE YEARS THOUGH.

ALSO CHECK OUT RUCKTION & UPSURGE SHOWS IN LONDON!

I'VE HEARD PEOPLE SAY THAT THE LONDON SCENE SEEMS INTIMIDATING, BUT I PERSONALLY ALWAYS FEEL THE LOVE WHETHER WE'RE PLAYING OR WATCHING. WHY DO YOU THINK THAT IS?
I GUESS IT CAN BE INTIMIDATING FOR YOUNGERS WHO'VE HEARD CERTAIN OLD STORIES (THAT ARE USUALLY VERY FUCKED UP AND FACTLESS AS THEY'VE BEEN HANDED DOWN FROM PERSON TO PERSON). ALSO, THERE'S THE FEELING THAT HARDCORE AS WE KNOW IT NOW KINDA STARTED IN LONDON AROUND '96 WITH BANDS LIKE KNUCKLEDUST AND NINEBAR. THE NORTH WAS ALSO DOING IT'S THING AT THE SAME TIME, SO RESPECT TO EVERYONE FLYING THE UKHC FLAG BACK THEN, BECAUSE IT CERTAINLY WASN'T THE 'COOL' MUSIC TO PLAY.
LONDON IS A WILD CITY, SO WITH IT CAN COME SOME WILD SHOWS! I'VE SEEN SOME INSANE SHIT OVER THE YEARS, BUT IT'S ALL PART OF IT. THIS SHIT AIN'T BALLET! REALLY THOUGH, I THINK THERE'S A PERFECT LINE FROM PIERRE IN KNUCKLEDUST'S SONG '25 YEARS DEAD' THAT SUMS UP THE LONDON HARDCORE SCENE... "LONDON IS THE CITY WE COME FROM, SPREAD LOVE IS THE LBU WAY..."
WE TRY TO LIVE BY THAT. WE'RE VERY WELCOMING TO NEW FACES AND WILL INTERACT WITH ANYONE, BUT WE ALSO FEEL THAT THOSE FACES NEED TO PAY THEIR DUES. WE ALL HAVE. WE HAVE HEADS THAT HAVE BEEN ROCKING THIS UKHC GAME FOR 20+ YEARS, WITH NO PLANS OF STOPPING. I'VE CERTAINLY SEEN THE FAIRWEATHER HC 'FANS' COME AND GO ENOUGH TIMES. IT SHOULD PROBABLY GO WITHOUT SAYING THAT IF YOU WRONG US BADLY ENOUGH, WELL... REAL SHIT CAN STILL HAPPEN IN AN AGE WHEN PEOPLE LIKE TO TALK THAT BIG SHIT ONLINE AND THEN NOT SAY A WORD IN PERSON, TRUST ME. PEOPLE NEED TO BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OWN WORDS AND ACTIONS, STRAIGHT.

IT'S EASY TO FUCK UP WHEN YOU'RE PROMOTING SHOWS. ANY ADVICE FOR PEOPLE THAT WANNA PUT ON SHOWS?
I GUESS IT IS EASY, BUT I'M LUCKY IN THAT I'VE HONESTLY NEVER PUT ON A BAD SHOW, WHETHER THAT BE ON MY OWN YEARS BACK OR WITH REC. MY ADVICE IS TO JUST USE YOUR HEAD. YOU HAVE TO BE REALISTIC WHEN PUTTING TOGETHER A LINEUP. A COMMON MISTAKE I SEE SOME PROMOTERS MAKE IS JUST PUTTING ON LINEUPS OF BANDS THEY LIKE. YOU MIGHT GET LUCKY WITH THAT, BUT YOU'LL SLIP UP IN TIME. FOR EXAMPLE, WE PUT ON BANDS THAT WE DON'T PERSONALLY LISTEN TO MUCH/AT ALL. IF PEOPLE WANA SEE IT, WE'LL USUALLY BOOK IT. OBVIOUSLY WE WON'T BOOK BANDS THAT WE CAN'T STAND OR HAVE ANY REAL PERSONAL ISSUES WITH. TO BE SUCCESSFUL AND GROW, YOU HAVE TO BE WILLING TO GO OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE SOMEWHAT.

AND FINALLY, A BIT MORE PERSONAL TO YOU — WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE BAND YOU'VE PLAYED WITH OVER THE YEARS?
IT'S ALWAYS GONA BE THE SAME ANSWER FOR ME... KNUCKLEDUST. THEY'RE THE LONDON/UKHC BAND FOR ME AND I'LL NEVER EVER GET EVEN SLIGHTLY BORED OF WATCHING THEM/PLAYING WITH THEM.
FUN FACT THOUGH... I FILLED IN FOR A FRIENDS FOLK TYPE BAND A FEW YEARS BACK AND WE ONCE SUPPORTED TOPLOADER. YA KNOW, THE BAND THAT DID THAT 'DANCING IN THE MOONLIGHT' DITTY THAT GOT MASSIVE YEARS BACK. PRETTY SURE THAT GOT TO NUMBER 1 IN THE CHARTS!

FIND REC ON INSTAGRAM HERE

AGAIN THANKS FOR YOUR TIME MATE, ANYTHING YOU WANT TO ADD OR SHOUT- OUT?
NO WORRIES AT ALL MATE. ITS BEEN A PLEASURE... EVEN IF I'M CURRENTLY SEVERELY HUNGOVER FROM DOING STUPID LOCKDOWN DRINKING GAMES WITH MY MATES ON INSTAGRAM LAST NIGHT. GIN IS THE DEVILS PISS FOR SURE HAHAHA.
I'D LOVE TO SHOUT OUT SOME SHOWS WE HAVE COMING UP, BUT OBVIOUSLY WITH THIS CURRENT AWFUL CORONAVIRUS SITUATION, EVERYTHING IS UP IN THE AIR AND UNCERTAIN RIGHT NOW. REST ASSURED, WE'LL BE BACK AND WE'RE CURRENTLY PLANNING SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR WHEN SHOWS CAN RECONVENE.
SHOUT OUT AND RESPECT TO THE REAL ONES IN UKHC DOING THEIR THING. I HOPE MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS STAY SAFE DURING THESE CRAZY, UNPRECEDENTED TIMES WE'LL GET THROUGH THIS TOGETHER!

PHOTOS BY @CALLXMEXKILLER, @MATOUXN, @XVISUA

NUCLEAR FAMILY RECORDS

NUCLEAR FAMILY HAVE DROPPED SOME KILLER RELEASES OVER THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS. THEY ARE CONSTANTLY PUSHING UKHC BANDS, AND ALSO BRINGING THE TOP TOURS AND SHOWS TO SOUTH WALES. THE CORE NFR TEAM ARE ALSO IN KOLD WAR, AND THEY ARE HEAVY AS FUCK. JOSH WESTON ANSWERED A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LABEL.

HEY JOSHI HOPE YOU'RE GOOD MAN.
SHWMAE ALEC

LET'S DIVE IN - TELL US HOW THE LABEL STARTED? WHO IS INVOLVED?
IN 2016 MY OLD BAND HUNGER STRIKE RECORDED A DEMO AND I FANCIED DOING SOME TAPES. RATHER THAN SELF RELEASING OUR FRIEND AND GUITARIST AT THE TIME, JOSHUA CRAVEN, SUGGESTED WE TRY AND PUT IT OUT UNDER A LABEL. THAT'S THE EXACT MOMENT WE HAD THE BRAINWAVE TO START NFR.

AT THE MOMENT NFR IS RUN BY MYSELF, KOFI ROBERTS, LEWIS MOON AND TOM WILLIAMS. WE ALSO WORK WITH TWO VERY TALENTED GRAPHIC DESIGNERS, KEN PEARCE AND MANNU AZMATH. THERE'S TOO MANY OTHER PEOPLE TO MENTION THAT HELP OUT BUT I JUST WANT TO THANK MY PARTNER LUCY FOR ALWAYS HAVING OUR BACK.

LISTEN TO KOLD WAR HERE

NFR IS AT WELL OVER 40 RELEASES NOW! ARE THERE ANY THAT YOU'RE PARTICULARLY PROUD OF?
A FEW PERSONAL FAVOURITES ARE THE VISION QUEST 7", THE EMBRACE DEATH TAPE BECAUSE IT'S A WHOLE NEW LEVEL OF IGNORANCE AND THE SOON TO BE RELEASED ASIDHARA 12", THOSE BOYS ARE KILLING IT.

DO YOU TEND TO APPROACH BANDS YOU LIKE, OR IS IT THE OTHER WAY AROUND?
I'D SAY ABOUT A THIRD OF BANDS WE RELEASE HAVE COME TO US AND THE REST WE'VE APPROACHED.

YOU'VE DONE A FEW INTERNATIONAL RELEASES, BUT YOU REALLY PUSH UKHC. WHO SHOULD WE LOOK OUT FOR IN THE UK AT THE MOMENT?
THE DEBUT VENT EP IS A BANGER, DEFINITELY A BAND TO WATCH THIS YEAR IF YOU HAVEN'T BEEN PAYING ATTENTION ALREADY. FRESH FROM CARDIFF CITY THERE'S COUNTERWEIGHT WHO SHOULD HAVE A DEMO OUT SOON ON DEATH CLOCK RECORDS. WE ALSO CAUGHT ILL-INFORMED LAST MONTH IN LONDON, TO PUT IT SIMPLY, YOU'RE MOSHING.

YOU ALSO PUT ON SHOWS IN SOUTH WALES, WHAT'S THE WILDEST SHOW YOU GUYS HAVE HAD DOWN THERE?
WITHOUT A DOUBT IT WAS YOTK IN FUEL, CARDIFF. CHAMBER, CAULDRON AND WATCH ME DIE SUPPORTING. ABSOLUTE CHAOS.

WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON FOR NFR? ANYTHING EXCITING YOU WANT TO SHARE?
WE'VE GOT TWO SPLITS COMING OUT THIS SPRING, ONE FOR THE MOSHERS AND ONE FOR THE THRASHERS. GONNA KNOCK UP SOME CAPS AND FRISBEES FOR THE STORE TOO.

LAST ONE - YOU GUYS ARE PROUDLY VEGAN (NFR VEGAN CREW IS TOUGHER THAN YOU - FACT). WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE VEGAN PLACE IN THE UK?
YOGAYA, SWANSEA
LUNAS VEGAN CORNER, CARDIFF
YOUNG VEGANS PIE & MASH, LONDON
TEMPLE OF SEITAN, LONDON
TEMPLE OF FUN, SHEFFIELD
NO WAY I COULD NARROW IT DOWN TO JUST ONE.

SPECIAL SHOUTOUT TO THE GREGG'S VEGAN STEAK BAKE.

NFR VEGAN CREW
TOUGHER THAN YOU

CHECK THE NFR STORE HERE

PHOTOS BY YASMEEN AL, STEPHANIE EVANS

CRUELTY

CRUELTY ARE A CHAOTIC FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH.

HAILING FROM BIRMINGHAM, THEY TAKE INFLUENCES FROM CHAOTIC 00'S HARDCORE LIKE CONVERGE AND BOTCH. THEIR LAST EP, WITHIN THE GRASP OF THE MACHINES, HAD A 7" RELEASE THROUGH THE COMING STRIFE, AND VARIOUS TAPE AND CD RELEASES WORLDWIDE.

CRUELTY HAVE A VIDEO OUT FOR NEW SONG WITCH, DIRECTED BY DAN GRAY (OF RENOUNCED). WITCH RAISES THE INTENSITY LEVEL MASSIVELY, SHOWING OFF MORE CHAOS THAN WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY SEEN FROM CRUELTY - I WOULD IMAGINE THIS IS A GREAT INDICATION OF WHAT IS TO COME.

LISTEN TO IN THE GRASP OF THE MACHINES ON SPOTIFY ETC.
CHECK OUT WITCH ON YOUTUBE

HI GAZ, HOW YOU DOING?
PAS MAUVAIS MERCI. ENJOYING THE LOCKDOWN.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU GUYS BEEN TOGETHER FOR NOW?
THREE YEARS THIS SUMMER. THREE YEAR WEDDING ANNIVERSARY GIFT IS LEATHER SO WE'RE ALL DRESSING UP AS ROB HALFORD FOR A BIT.

THERE'S A BIG DIFFERENCE IN SOUND BETWEEN YOUR LAST TWO EPS. DO YOU FEEL LIKE SOMETHING CLICKED WHILE WRITING "IN THE GRASP..."?
NOT PARTICULARLY. WE'RE A MORE WELL-OILED UNIT THAN WE WERE INITIALLY FOR SURE. THE SONGS ON THE SECOND EP ARE WELL OVER A YEAR OLD NOW SO TO ME SEEM TIRED/OLD. WE'RE VERY SLOW AT GETTING STUFF RELEASED AS WE ONLY TEND TO PRACTISE WHEN WE'RE ON THE CUSP OF RECORDING/TOURING. TO ME THE GUITAR WORK IS THE SAME ACROSS BOTH RELEASES. SHAAF CHANGED VOCAL STYLES SO IT COULD BE THAT?

YOU'VE JUST FINISHED THE TOUR WITH EMPLOYED TO SERVE, WERE THERE NOTICEABLE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THIS KIND OF TOUR AND THE DIY WEEKENDERS THAT YOU'RE USED TO?
THERE'S A REASON WHY THEY PLAY TO BIG CROWDS AND WE CAN'T PULL 10 PEOPLE. IT IS VERY PROFESSIONAL WHICH AT FIRST SEEMED ALIEN BUT GIVEN THE NATURE OF THE BAND, SIZE OF AUDIENCE, FINANCIALS ETC. MAKES TOTAL SENSE. ALL WELL TO FUCK AROUND WHEN YOU'RE GETTING PAID £20 TO PLAY SOME REGIONAL BEATDOWN SHOW BUT NOT WHEN PEOPLE GENUINELY RELY ON YOUR BAND TO PAY THEIR BILLS. ETS ARE GREAT MUSICIANS AND PEOPLE, I DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE RELATIVELY STAND OFF-ISH TREATMENT THEY RECEIVE FROM 'THE SCENE'. THEY HAVE HEAVIER BREAKDOWNS THAN 90% OF HARDCORE-CLIQUE BANDS. IT WAS NICE HAVING A PROPER SOUNDCHECK EVERY NIGHT AND GREAT TO PLAY TO PEOPLE WHO WILL ALMOST DEFINITELY NOT HAVE HEARD US. ALSO, NO HORSESHOE.

ANY WILD TOUR/PARTY STORIES?
NOT PARTICULARLY. AS YOU KNOW WE'RE ALL VERY INTO CLEAN LIVING AND BRUSHING OUR TEETH BEFORE BEDTIME.

ANY HIGHLIGHTS FROM YOUR TIME AS A BAND? MAYBE THERE'S A PARTICULAR SHOW THAT STANDS OUT?
PUTTING OUT A 7". I ENJOY THE WRITING, RECORDING AND PRACTISING ELEMENTS MORE THAN PLAYING SHOWS SO BEING ABLE TO HOLD SOMETHING PHYSICAL YOU HAVE PRODUCED IS SATISFYING.

NEW SONG "THE WITCH" IS A BANGER. ANY PLANS FOR ANOTHER RELEASE SOON? WHAT'S CRUELTY UP TO THIS YEAR?
WE'RE DOING A SPLIT WITH ROT IN HELL ON ORGANISED CRIME VERY SOON. 'WITCH' IS ONE OF THE TRACKS FOR THAT, WE'RE JUST WAITING ON RIH TO FINISH THEIR SIDE. BEYOND THAT WE'RE RECORDING AN LP WITH BOULTY AND TAYLOR YOUNG FOR RELEASE IN LATE WINTER/EARLY NEXT YEAR.

ANY UP-AND-COMING BANDS WE SHOULD BE CHECKING OUT?
LAWFUL KILLING.

LISTEN TO WITCH HERE

THANKS FOR YOUR TIME, LAST ONE — BEST SHOW YOU'VE EVER BEEN TO?
MARS VOLTA IN BIRMINGHAM 2007 OR TAY SWIFT AT WEMBLEY 2017.

PHOTOS BY DAN GRAY, LIAM GAUNTLETT, DEC BRECKON, ©ALLRIGHTALLGOOD

NEW RECORD REVIEWS BY GAZ DAVIES

REVULSION - ENOUGH TO BLEED - BEATDOWN HARDWARE - 2020

8/10

NO FRILLS, NO MELODY, NO CHORUSES, NO CLIPPED OFF THE SHELF CHAD VALLEY BREAKDOWNS, JUST UNFILTERED RAGE. NOTHING OVERSTAYS IT'S WELCOME WITH 10 SONGS IN 25 MINS WITH PUMMELLING LOW STRING RIFFS, CONSISTENTLY INTERESTING DRUMS UNDERLAYING THE MENACING VOCALS. THE LP MIX ITSELF IS THE BEST. IT'S DIRTY BUT NOT IN A BRUTAL MID EQ CRUSTY WAY. THIS BAND DESERVE TO GO BEYOND THE INSULAR UKHC SCENE, THIS BEING THEIR THIRD SOLID RELEASE, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT 2015'S 'MISERY HYMNS' AND 2016'S 'DRAIN/REJECT MYSELF' 7". VERY VERY HEAVY WITHOUT EVER DRAGGING KNUCKLES. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

EYE FLYS - TUB OF LARD - THRILL JOCKEY - 2020

6/10

ANOTHER WEEK, ANOTHER FULL OF HELL SIDE-PROJECT. THIS ONE NOISE ROCK. THINK SLOWER WEEKEND NACHOS AND MELVINS MAYBE? THICK DISTORTED BASS, SNARLING VOCALS. SOME OF THE HALF-TEMPO BITS COME THROUGH LIKE MID-PERIOD CONVERGE SEE; 'PREDATOR AND PREY' BUT THEN THERE'S A SOLO. 'NICE GUY' HAS SOME 'NICE' WINDY GUITAR WORK A LA DAUGHTERS/MARS VOLTA. ALL IN ALL NOTHING TO WRITE HOME ABOUT.

DOGLEG - MELEE - TRIPLE CROWN - 2020

9/10

TRIPLE CROWN PUT OUT THE FIRST BRAND NEW ALBUM AND ALTHOUGH THIS BAND AT FIRST LISTEN ARE NOTHING LIKE THAT RECORD A FEW SPINS IN AND THE POP SENSIBILITIES OF THAT NOW CANCELLED BAND DEFINITELY SHINES THROUGH. IT'S PUNK YEAH BUT NOT IN A SPIT AT YOU KIND OF WAY. MORE OF A GET UP KIDS FAN THAN ONE FOR THE MAGS. MOSTLY FAST TRACKS THAT PULL THE AIR DRUMMING OUT BUT THE COUPLE OF WALTZIER NUMBERS HIT TOO, THESE BEING NOT TOO DISSIMILAR TO 'MALADROIT' ERA WEEZER. IT'S MELODIC AS FUCK AND DEFINITELY CATCHY, ANOTHER RIVERS' TROPE. I NORMALLY JUDGE AN LP BY HOW MANY TIMES I GO BACK TO IT FROM FIRST LISTEN WITHIN A WEEK, WRITING THIS IS MY 6TH TIME SO TAKE THAT AS YOU WILL.

REVIEWS BY GAZ DAVIES, PHOTO BY DEC BRECKON

WRETCHED RECORDS

WR031 - DIRE ARE A NEW DEATH METAL BAND FROM AUSTRALIA.

3 TRACK DEBUT EP, IF YOU FUCK WITH MURDER MUSIC THEN THIS RELEASE IS FOR YOU.

FEATURING MEMBERS FROM WHENLOVEDIES AND BREAK THROUGH.

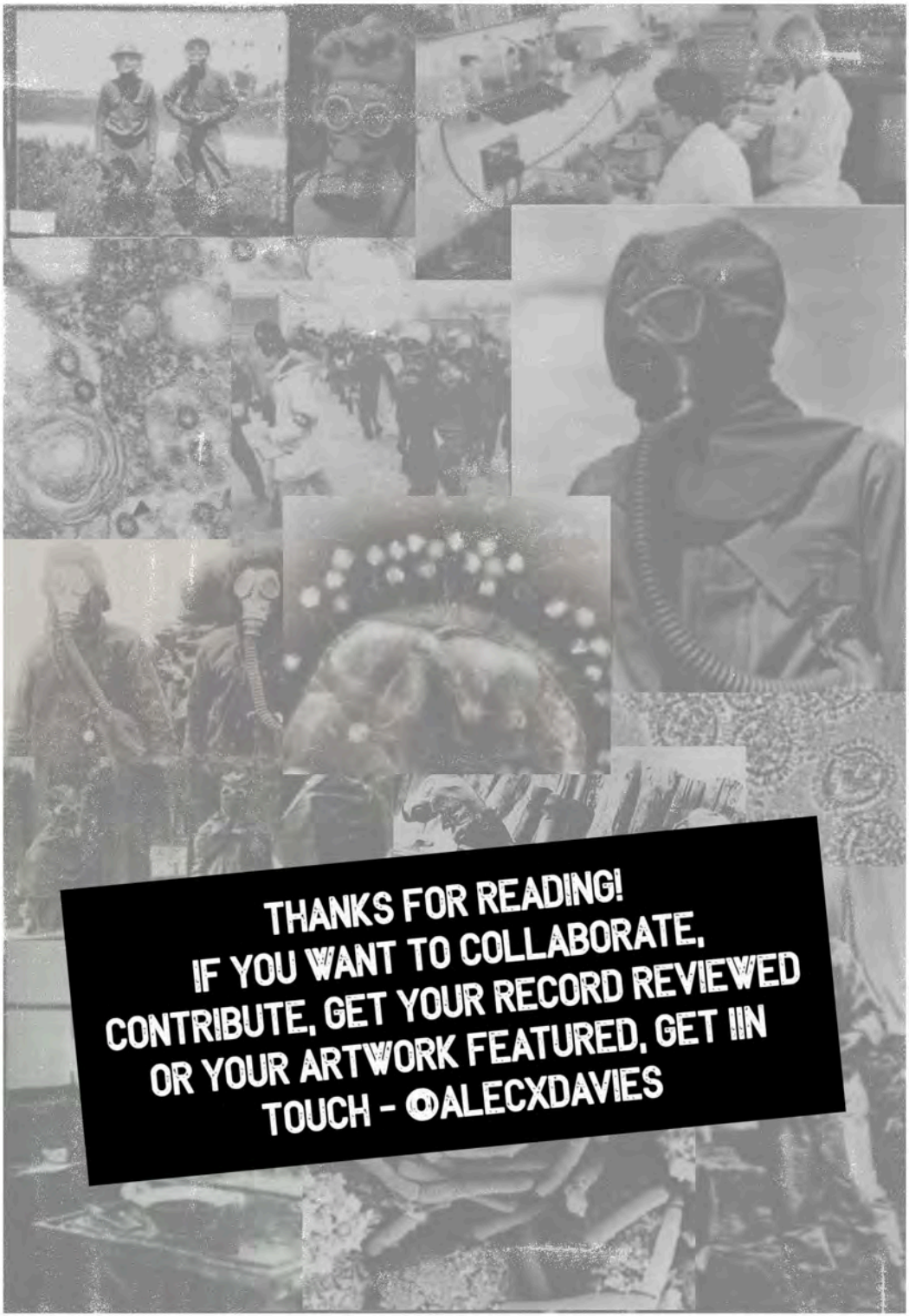
TAPE RELEASE /65
NORMAL COVER /45 ON CLEAR ORANGE TAPES
MAFIA RIP /20 ON GREY TAPES

WR032 - NEW METALCORE BAND FROM BALTIMORE.

FFO - AS I LAY DYING, PARKWAY DRIVE & KILLSWITCH ENGAGE

TAPE RELEASE /65
NORMAL COVER - /45
AS I LAY DYING - FRAIL WORDS COLLPASE RIP
LIMITED COVER /20

VISIT THE STORE WRETCHEDRECORDS.BIGCARTEL.COM
SUBMIT DEMOS TO WRETCHEDRECORDINGS@OUTLOOK.COM


THANKS FOR READING!
IF YOU WANT TO COLLABORATE,
CONTRIBUTE, GET YOUR RECORD REVIEWED
OR YOUR ARTWORK FEATURED, GET IN
TOUCH - @ALECXDAVIES